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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : [redacted]
Room 1301 "I" Bldg.

FROM : [redacted] FDD

SUBJECT: Comments on USSR Area Program

DATE: 25 September 1952

Attached are the comments of some members of the [redacted] they attended only the second half of the USSR area program of the summer 1952 held at FDD. Since their area of interest is Eastern Europe, such comments as relate to the greater value of an Eastern Europe programs obviously should be discounted in so far as they are adversely critical. Some of the questions are not as applicable to this group as to a group whose area of concentration is the USSR.

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My own comments are based on the approximately ten lectures I attended. The whole idea of area programs, as long as they are conducted by recognized and reputable scholars of the area, is an excellent one, and I wish to congratulate your office on providing such. The answers to many of your questions (i.e. 1, 3a, b, d) depend on uncontrollable variables, such as the states of knowledge of the trainees, personal preferences as to methods, and the idiosyncrasies and pedagogical predilections of the instructors. However, I think there is little question that such lectures contribute more or less positively to our analysts' effectiveness.

In the matter of time, I estimate that the length of the course and the length of each lecture is the maximum which should be allowed.

In reference to the balance between lecture and discussion, opportunity should be given for discussion, but the length and content of discussion should be left to the discretion of the instructor, who would presumably base his control of it on its relevance and relative importance.

I join the unanimous opinion that students not be required to do collateral reading or prepare papers because of the exorbitant amount of time such work would require. However, I second [redacted] comment that a bibliography would be very helpful, though I shouldn't limit the number or require that it be mimeographed. The value of a bibliography would be enhanced if the instructor gave his personal comments on each work as to its pertinence, its peculiar worth, its weaknesses, etc.

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I believe that [redacted] comment (among the attached) that the recipients of instruction give their suggestions as to what the content and emphasis of the lectures should be is an excellent one. Such suggestions might help the Office of Training in selecting the instructor, and the instructor could take note of the main interests

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of his students and at his discretion formulate his lecture series more or less along those lines, depending on his own degree of competence in the fields of emphasis desired by the students.



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